

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Previously Amended) A non-toxic biodegradable plant protein composite, said composite comprising: 5 to 90 parts by weight soy protein; and 90 to 5 parts by weight of a polylactide, wherein said composite total does not exceed 100 parts.

Claim 2 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 1 wherein the composite includes at least 25% by weight of the polylactide.

Claim 3 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 1 wherein the composite includes at least 50% by weight of the polylactide.

Claim 4 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 1 further including a compatibilizer, said compatibilizer being selected from the group consisting of a poly(2-alkyl-2-oxazoline), a poly(2-phenyl-2-oxazoline), and an epoxy/hydroxyl functionalized polybutadiene.

Claim 5 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 4 wherein the poly(2-alkyl-2-oxazoline) is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-methyl-2-oxazoline), poly(2-ethyl-2-oxazoline), and poly(2-propionyl-2-oxazoline).

Claim 6 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 5 wherein the poly(2-alkyl-2-oxazoline) is poly(2-ethyl-2-oxazoline).

Claim 7 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 4 wherein the composite contains 2 parts by weight compatibilizer.

Claim 8 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 1 wherein the plant protein is acetylated.

Claim 9 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 1 further including a cross-linking agent.

Claim 10 (Previously Amended) The plant protein composite of claim 9 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of glutaric dialdehyde, epichlorohydrin, formaldehyde, glyoxal, adipic anhydride, acetic anhydride, zinc sulfate, and calcium chloride.

Claim 11 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 10 wherein the cross-linking agent is glutaric dialdehyde or epichlorohydrin.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The plant protein composite of claim 10 which includes ~~from~~ up to about 0-0.6 parts by weight glutaric dialdehyde.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The plant protein composite of claim 10 which includes ~~from~~ up to about 0-0.4 parts by weight epichlorohydrin.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended) The plant protein composite of claim 1 which further includes a plasticizer, said plasticizer being selected from the group consisting of up to 50% by weight glycerol and up to 30% by weight propylene glycol.

Claim 15 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 14 which includes 10-30% by weight glycerol.

Claim 16 (Original) The plant protein composite of claim 14 which includes 10-20% by weight propylene glycol.

Claim 17 (Previously Amended) A method for making a biodegradable plant protein composite comprising: combining 5 to 90 parts by weight plant protein with 90 to 5 parts by weight polylactide to form a mixture; and extruding said mixture at a temperature sufficient to make the mixture extrudable; wherein said composite total does not exceed 100 parts.

Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the plant protein is soy protein.

Claim 19 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 20 (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising adding a compatibilizer to the mixture.

Claim 21 (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising adding a cross-linking agent to the mixture.

Claim 22 (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising adding a plasticizer to the mixture.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) A non-toxic biodegradable plant protein composite comprising: soy protein; at least 25% by weight of a polylactide; up to 10 parts by weight of a compatibilizer, said compatibilizer being selected from the group consisting of a poly(2-alkyl-2-oxazoline) and a poly(2-phenyl-2-oxazoline); up to 0.6 parts by weight of a cross-linking agent, said cross-linking agent being selected from the group consisting of glutaric dialdehyde and epichlorohydrin; and up to 40% by weight of a plasticizer, said plasticizer being selected from the group consisting of glycerol and propylene glycol.